

[0161] Although the preferred embodiments of the invention have been illustrated and described in detail, it will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention or from the scope of the appended claims. For example, there is a great variation in the order in which many of the tasks described herein may be performed. In addition, the teachings of the present invention can be adapted to unmanned applications, such as, sensor networks. In such a situation, individual sensor radios can cooperate with other sensor radios within the sensor network to increase performance and provide alternative communications paths.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is accompanied by a "Notice of Omitted Item(s) in a Nonprovisional Application" document dated 24 September 2003. This document alleges that the above-listed application was filed with page 46 omitted.

Applicants cannot, at the current time, explain the missing page 46 from the version of the specification that was reviewed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The missing page 46 is and has been present in all copies of the specification in applicants' possession and is believed to have been mailed with the rest of the specification when the application was filed.

But, in this situation the missing page 46 happens to convey material that is unessential to support the claims. Accordingly, it is being added by Preliminary Amendment.

The present amendment does not present new matter. Rather, the unessential material from the missing page 46 is considered desirable in the specification because it clarifies material

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presented elsewhere in the specification and throughout the specification as a whole. It is well-settled that: "[a]mendments to specifications for the purpose of clarity and definiteness are permissible." *Helms Products, Inc. v. Lake Shore Manufacturing Co.*, 107 U.S.P.Q. 313, 314 (7th Cir. 1955).

The present amendment completes paragraph 160 and adds paragraph 161. Please note that paragraph 160 is merely a summary paragraph, which even begin with the words "In summary". The material in this paragraph, including the above-underlined final portion thereof from the missing page 46, clarifies and makes more definite the features of the invention that are presented elsewhere in the specification. Paragraph 161 further clarifies what is readily apparent to those skilled in the art. Namely, the preferred embodiments discussed elsewhere in the specification may be modified without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Accordingly, entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. If there are any questions, the below-signed attorney of record may be reached by telephone at: (602) 274-6996 or by facsimile at: (602) 274-6970.

Respectfully submitted,



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